

# Department of Human Services

Prepared by the  
DHS Office of  
Communications  
(517) 373-7394



## Articles in Today's Clips Wednesday, February 7, 2007

(Be sure to maximize your screen to read your clips)

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
*State of the State Address	2-7
Child Abuse/Neglect/Protection	8-12
Fatherhood	13-16
Juvenile Justice	17-18
Health Care	19
Early Childhood Development	20-21
Poverty	22-23
Budget	24-25
News Release	26-27

\*Important story at this spot



## Granholm pushes to improve accountability

More workers and monitoring sought

February 7, 2007

BY JACK KRESNAK

FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

In the wake of the deaths of three Michigan children in foster or adoptive homes in 18 months, Gov. Jennifer Granholm promised in her State of the State address to increase accountability and performance in the child-welfare system.

"We've all felt the pain when vulnerable children suffer at the hands of those entrusted with their care," she said, according to an advance text of the speech. She said the state Department of Human Services is "making fundamental changes to protect abused and neglected children."

She said the DHS is "stepping up background checks for any adult who lives in a foster-care home and adding more child protective-services workers to our ranks."

"We will aggressively monitor foster homes, and we will demand more accountability from anyone who plays a role in the system," Granholm said.

John Colina is president of the Southgate-based Colina Foundation and chairman of Wayne County's Great Start Collaborative, which works to provide preschool education for underprivileged children. He said he welcomed Granholm's attention to the problems identified in a recent Free Press series on the death of 2-year-old Isaac Lethbridge in a Detroit foster home.

Isaac and another child, 2-year-old Allison Newman, both died in licensed foster homes in 2006. The death of Ricky Holland, 7, in a foster-adoptive home near Williamston in 2005 prompted changes in how the DHS monitors foster homes.

"There's no question that proper supervision and oversight of foster-care placements is really an important part of this whole thing," said Colina of Grosse Ile. But "the devil's in the details," he said.

DHS spokeswoman Maureen Sorbet said details would come Thursday when Granholm presents her proposed budget to the Legislature.

Contact **JACK KRESNAK** at 313-223-4544.

Copyright © 2006 Detroit Free Press Inc.



State of the State  
Reporter: Beth Shayne

"Hear me loud and clear," Gov. Granholm said about halfway through the address, "I refuse to slash school funding in the middle of this year."

It wasn't her opening line, but it may have been her show-stopper. It's a giant relief to schools just waiting for the other shoe to fall during a budget crisis, but it's a proposal that makes the budget solution she'll present Thursday all the more difficult.

"The naysayers will say we can't afford new investment," she said later. "The truth is we cannot afford not to."



It was the theme of her speech--new programs despite budget challenges. She proposed more employees at the Department of Human Services, and free community college tuition for displaced workers.

"Three years--take it or leave it. Get the training or a degree now, and we'll pay for it now," she says.

She also proposed \$100 million dollars in investments to attract alternative energy companies. She called for a reduction in prison costs by releasing and rehabilitating prisoners.

On the topic of budgets, she called on all levels of government to tighten their belts, proposing revenue-sharing penalties for local government and schools that don't try sharing services.

"Consolidation of services saves money. And whether it's by using a carrot or a stick, we are going to make it happen," she said.

She was selling a budget plan she didn't specifically address, teasing some increase in taxes, and asking for cooperation from both sides of the aisle to, in her words, "invest in our people."

"The choice we face right now in Michigan is not right or left. It is advance or retreat."

**Find this article at:**

<http://www.wilx.com/fox47news/headlines/5603806.html>

☐ Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

# **Gov Says It's Time To Invest**

**MIRS, February 6, 2007**

Gov. Jennifer **GRANHOLM** never told Michigan exactly how she proposes to increase taxes. But during her fifth State of the State tonight, she made it clear that tax hikes are on the way.

The governor concluded a lengthy and often times rushed 56-minute address with a strong, impassioned plea to take the state's "hard and stubborn" economy head-on, to push forward with her plans to invest, be it in her handful of new retraining and education programs or those programs she's already gotten off the ground.

The Governor made it clear the state's piggy bank was empty and cutting more services and cutting more business taxes wasn't going to get Michigan out of it. Rather, the Governor said more cuts will leave the state with "potholed streets," "crumbling bridges," under-funded universities and unskilled workers.

To do anything but to invest with confidence and courage in "our people" will cause the state to be "sucked backwards on a path of failure and fear."

"The choice we face right now in Michigan is not right or left. It is to advance or retreat," Granholm said. "I say advance."

The meat of the Governor's speech tackled 14 specific legislative directives or new programs with the promise of "pushing the gas pedal" on a few other successful programs such as her 21st Century Jobs Fund and overseas business trips.

"It just makes me ready to go," said freshman Rep. Joan **BAUER** (D-Lansing) afterwards.

But the heavy cloud of the \$800 million budget hole in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 hung over the entire speech, and while she peppered different budget promises throughout the speech, Granholm sprinted through the first 44 minutes until reaching her big finish on the state's budget.

Up to that point, the Governor had been interrupted 42 times by applause. For the last 13 minutes, the joint session of the Michigan Legislature sat in mostly silence as the Governor drove home the point that Michigan's poor economy is eating away the state budget and the 93 tax cuts she claims she signed into law haven't turned things around.

Also, cutting spending alone isn't going to get Michigan to where it needs to be.

"The truth is another round of budget cutting alone cannot solve the fiscal crisis," she said. "In fact, a cuts-only solution would destroy the state's ability to recover."

Rather, she pledged to lay out a tax system where "businesses will begin to pay their fair share" but will still be below the national average.

"That is code for I'm going to raise your taxes and I want the general public to feel good about it," said House Minority Leader Craig **DeROCHE** (R-Novi).

In exchange, the state will make investments in "education, health care and infrastructure." The Governor went as far as to say that she will not "slash school funding in the middle of the year."

Granholtm predicted this type of response, saying:

"The Naysayers haven't seen my budget yet, but they already know they are against it," Granholtm said. "Blinded by narrow ideology, stubbornly fixed on old solutions that have failed to work in a new economy, they'll say we can't afford new investment. The truth is we can't afford not to."

"The Naysayers" first critique out the box will be how the state could possibly afford to balance an \$800 million budget on top of the several programs she proposed today.

"She said in the fifth year we'd be totally blown away," said Sen. Alan **SANBORN** (R-Richmond). "I am. I don't know how we're going to pay for it."

As previously leaked to the media the Governor called on her "Promise Zones" proposal to expand free college scholarships to distressed communities and required kindergarten and full pre-school funding for 26,000 4 year olds (See "**First SOS Leak: Let's Pay For College**," 2/2/07).

She called for more tourism and business marketing for Michigan, a \$100 million private-public venture to recruit alternative energy companies, a "Michigan Nursing Corps" to train 500 nursing educators and "revolutionary new high schools" in which high school and community college would be blended into five years of schools for those looking to go into the health care industry.

All the while, she called for an increase in money to hire more cops and firefighters and more state child protective service workers to make sure children are "placed in safe, permanent homes" and to aggressively monitor foster homes. Granholtm's address didn't make deep state cuts to higher education sound probable either, when she said she plans to require tuitions to be affordable for Michigan families.

"It was disturbing to sit through a speech that inspired, but that doesn't deal in reality," said Senate Majority Leader Mike **BISHOP** (R-Rochester), who took notes during the speech.

As far as proposals to cut government spending, Granholtm mentioned three ideas. The

first is cuts in revenue sharing payments to cities and townships that don't consolidate or share services. She threatened to make cuts to schools that don't "embrace a more common sense way to put more dollars in the classroom," such as pooling software contracts with neighboring districts.

The second was a pledge to find lower-cost ways to deal with non-violent offenders. In information leaked to *Booth Newspapers* before the State of the State, the administration pledged to release inmates that are old, sick and non-threatening to the general population.

But tonight she didn't get into the specifics of her plan other than to say prison populations would decrease without compromising public safety and that parolees need to become productive members of society as opposed to someone running up expensive tabs behind bars.

"All I heard in her State of the State was increase taxes and free prisoners," Sanborn said.

Earlier in the day Michigan Republican Party Chair Saul **ANUZIS** said he found the idea of letting the sick out of prison "intriguing and interesting" and thought the Legislature should look at it. He added that he didn't know if Department of Corrections management should be in charge of overseeing such an effort, seeing they botched the release of Patrick **SELEPAK** and couldn't balance their budget last year.

The Governor also pledged to continue waging war on waste and find new efficiencies within state government, something folks around town have heard before. For the statewide audience, however, Granholm emphasized her unchallenged number of \$4 billion in deficits and \$3 billion in cuts she's made to past budgets.

As far as the 14 new proposals, the Governor's laid out in her spoken text (she dropped two proposals from her written text), Granholm focused mostly on alternative energy, K-12 education and advanced training for workers.

"By building on innovative programs such as the Kalamazoo Promise and alternative energy, she has set a positive course for Michigan's evolving identity," said Senate Minority Leader Mark **SCHAUER**. "I also applaud her for putting Michigan workers first for educational opportunities and for proposing real government reform."

She restated her desire to see the state ban on embryonic stem cell research lifted and threatened to see it on the ballot if the Legislature did nothing with it.

She also repeated her desire to see her 2006 State of the State small business retirement plan moved (See "**What Happened To The MI Retirement Program**," 1/29/07). The third resurrected directive was her call to increase the drop out age from 16 to 18, something she asked for in 2003.

Her three other education-initiatives were the expanded pre-school for 26,000 4 year olds,

a mandatory kindergarten requirement and the aforementioned high school/community college hybrid she wants to create with Henry Ford Hospital.

On the alternative energy front, Granholm called for "an aggressive, three-year effort to attract more alternative energy companies to Michigan through more than \$100 million in combined public-private investment.

The Governor embraced Public Service Commission Chair Peter **LARK**'s recommendation to have 10 percent of the state's energy come from renewable sources within eight years with the hope of doubling that goal in the decade after that.

She asked the Legislature to expand alternative energy renaissance zones to attract new solar and wind energy companies and pledged to have 1,000 ethanol and bio-diesel pumps at gas stations across the state.

"Tonight's speech by the Governor was a bold beginning...Michigan can help break our nation's dependence on foreign oil," said David **HOLTZ** of Clean Water Action Michigan. "Governor Granholm's proposals for making Michigan the leader on reducing greenhouse gas emissions through green technology are a remedy for our economy and global climate change and a real turn from the past."

On the advanced training front, Granholm mentioned repackaging the federal dollars the state receives to award free community college tuition to unemployed workers who want to learn skills needed for "high-demand jobs."

Republicans stood in applause for this program...likely because she's talking about using federal money, as opposed to new money from the state's General Fund.



## Man, 32, guilty of torture He is first in county to be convicted of crime

Wednesday, February 07, 2007

By Steven Hepker

shepker@citpat.com -- 768-4923

A jury Tuesday convicted Ian Anderson of torture and first-degree child abuse in a case involving a 6-year-old boy. He became the first person in Jackson County to be found guilty of torture.

Anderson, 32, of Jackson faces up to life in prison at his sentencing March 21.

Anderson described a tag-team approach to punishing his girlfriend's son, including spatula spankings that scalded 50 square inches of his buttocks.

"I'd hit him five or six times, then she'd scream at him, then I'd hit him again five or six times," Anderson testified Tuesday.

Assistant Prosecutor Susan Beebe said she was pleased with the trial's outcome, noting the pressure felt by the boy's other relatives.

"They are certainly very relieved," she said. "There is some hesitation ! having to do it all again in a few weeks."

Jeannine Nyies, mother of the 6-year-old victim, is due to give birth to Anderson's baby and is being held in the Jackson County Jail until her trial March 14. She invoked her right against self-incrimination in refusing to testify against Anderson.

Anderson, who lived with Nyies and her son, testified he became a heroin addict last summer and was going cold turkey Aug. 6 when the boy suffered wounds to his buttocks, left arm and scalp.

Doctors said Monday the boy's rear end was hurt so severely that his underpants melded to large, raw patches on each buttock.

He required a week of morphine, numerous surgeries and treatment for infections. He continues weekly counseling.

Anderson said Nyies, 30, had tied the boy's hands behind his head and made him stand in a corner on his toes, then whipped him with a spatula.

When the boy fought back against Nyies, Anderson said he joined in, then "snapped" when the victim bit his right hand. Both adults pulled the boy's hair to break the grip on Anderson's hand, he said.

"I probably spanked him 30 or 40 times," Anderson said under cross-examination by Beebe. Threatened by his mother, the boy kept quiet during most of the beating, Anderson said.

Nyies then placed her son in a dark basement for three or four hours, Anderson said.

The boy testified Monday he was beaten with a spatula and wooden spoon, tied up and eventually locked in the basement.



He said it was scary and dark, "with lots of needles down there."

Anderson said he was sick from drug withdrawal and slept on the couch after Nyies put the boy in the basement. He said that when he awoke hours later, he suggested they retrieve the boy.

"Did you tell him that spiders would lay eggs in his ears in the basement?" Beebe asked.

"I said something like that," he said.

Under questioning by his attorney, Wendell Jacobs, Anderson said the spider reference was a response to the boy's comments when he emerged from the basement.

"He said he'd rather do that than stand in the corner," Anderson said. "I tried to make him not want to go down there."

©2007 Jackson Citizen Patriot

© 2007 Michigan Live. All Rights Reserved.



## Woman held in dumping of baby

**FLINT TOWNSHIP**

**THE FLINT JOURNAL FIRST EDITION**

Wednesday, February 07, 2007

**JOURNAL STAFF WRITER**

A 21-year-old Flint Township woman has been charged with unlawful disposition of a body after allegedly dumping a dead newborn in a trash can in Watertown, N.Y., police say.

Andrea Kline was being held Tuesday in the Jefferson County Jail on \$7,500 bail.

Her father, Douglas Kline, said this morning from his Flint Township home that the family had just learned of the charges and had no comment on the charges or what his daughter was doing in New York.

Watertown police said the child was born Monday in a room at a Best Western Hotel. The baby did not survive childbirth, police said.

Police declined to comment whether the baby was Kline's.

But they did say that the mother was treated at Samaritan Medical Center, according to local news reports.

The Watertown Daily Times reported that Kline was a third-year student at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo and was in Watertown visiting her boyfriend, who is stationed at Fort Drum, N.Y.

-From Associated Press and Journal staff reports

\*\*\*

The Associated Press

©2007 Flint Journal

© 2007 Michigan Live. All Rights Reserved.

# ClickOnDetroit.com

## Police: Michigan Woman Left Dead Newborn In Trash Can

POSTED: 2:56 pm EST February 6, 2007

**WATERTOWN, N.Y.** -- A 21-year-old Michigan woman was charged with unlawful disposition of a body after police said she dumped her dead newborn in a trash can.

Andrea Kline, of Kalamazoo, Mich., was being held Tuesday in the Jefferson County Jail on \$7,500 bail.

Watertown police said Kline gave birth to a baby boy sometime Monday in a room at the Best Western Hotel. The baby did not survive childbirth, police said.

*Copyright 2007 by [The Associated Press](#). All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.*

Lansing State Journal Letters

February 7, 2007

## **Punish enablers**

I am just sick of reading about children who are killed at the hands of their parents and caregivers! The Jan. 30 story about Anishia Moy online is just one more sad and disturbing addition to recently publicized cases like Ricky Holland and the young boy whose mother and boyfriend entertained company and smoked pot while he lay dying from the multiple injuries the boyfriend had inflicted upon him.

In each of these cases it seems that key people - including social workers, school teachers, friends and neighbors - failed to protect helpless, vulnerable children.

Who will answer for these deaths? What changes are being made in local social service agencies and schools to keep children like these from falling through the cracks? And, why isn't the LSJ doing more to put heat on the responsible agencies and find the answers to these questions? Where is the accountability?

Annemarie Hodges  
Lansing

# Fathers play key role in lives of children

The Huron Daily Tribune

02/06/2007

All this month, Gov. Jennifer Granholm wants Michigan residents to be aware of the critical role fathers play in the lives of their children. Granholm has declared February as Responsible Fatherhood Awareness Month in Michigan.

In a recent press release, Department of Human Services director Marianne Udow stressed the critical influence fathers have on their children.

"Outcomes for children are greatly improved with an active, involved father," she said. "Whether parents live together or apart, they are connected by their care and concern for their children."

Today in the Detroit area, the fifth annual Fatherhood Conference was set to take place. The event is sponsored by the Michigan Fatherhood Coalition and the Michigan Head Start Association. The scheduled speaker was Mac Bledsoe, author of "Parenting with Dignity" and father of Dallas Cowboys quarterback Drew Bledsoe.

Another program, Proud Fathers-Proud Parents, also is involved in promoting responsible male parenting.

It's a fact: Children with active, involved fathers have better social skills, are healthier and do better in school.

The Proud Fathers-Proud Parents program helps men find healthy, positive ways to interact with their children and the children's mothers. In short, they become the best dads they can be.

And that's something that benefits us all.

*©Huron Daily Tribune 2007*

Detroit Free Press  
February 7, 2007

## **ROMULUS: Dads group thanks DHS chief for parenting help**

The Michigan Fatherhood Coalition honored state Department of Human Services Director Marianne Udow on Tuesday for supporting programs that help fathers become better parents and promote self-sufficiency.

The coalition was impressed by Udow's efforts to maintain about \$1 million in federal funding for two fatherhood initiatives despite difficult budget times.

Compiled by Zlati Meyer, David Ashenfelter and Jack Kresnak.

## **Udow Wins 2007 Child Advocate Award**

MIRS, February 6, 2007

Department of Human Services (DHS) Director Marianne **UDOW** today accepted the 2007 Child Advocate Award from the Michigan Fatherhood Coalition. The award honors individuals who make substantial contributions that promote responsible fatherhood.

Udow was singled out for her commitment to funding and expanding the Proud Fathers-Proud Parents programs that provide money for community agencies to deliver group-based instruction about responsible male parenting, promoting healthy marriages and co-parenting efforts. The program will disburse about \$1 million from federal TANF funds during fiscal year 2007 to 22 counties.

The Michigan Fatherhood Coalition honored Udow and other policy leaders at its fifth annual Fatherhood Conference. The non-profit organization promotes the need for responsible male parenting and positive co-parenting relationships through a network of private and public practitioners who offer programming. Nancy **WILLYARD** of the Head Start State Collaboration Office also was awarded a 2007 Child Advocate Award for the organization's support of scholarships to attend the Michigan Fatherhood Coalition's annual conference.

Michigan Report

February 6, 2007

**CHILD ADVOCATE:** Human Services Director Marianne Udow received the 2007 Child Advocate Award from the Michigan Fatherhood Coalition for development of the Proud Fathers-Proud Families program. The program provides grants to local agencies for male parenting and marriage development classes.

The coalition is a non-profit group that supports male parenting and co-parenting efforts.





April, an 18-year-old Adrian Training School resident whose name cannot be released due to state regulations, looks toward the new Cynthia Gray Transition Hall on the ATS campus. The transitional program helps give residents of the juvenile justice facility the skills they'll need to become successful members of their communities upon release.

Telegram photos by Erik Gable

# Mapping new futures

The Adrian Training School's new transition program gets a permanent home.

By Erik Gable  
Daily Telegram News Editor

**ADRIAN** — She wants to be a lawyer and a judge, and after three months in the Adrian Training School's new transitional program, 18-year-old April doesn't just know where she wants to go — she also has a road map for how to get there.

The Adrian Training School, a state-run juvenile justice facility for girls and women ages 12 to 21, recently began a program aimed at teaching residents the skills they need to complete their educations, start careers and become successful members of their communities. On Friday, the school celebrated the completion of a new home for the transitional program: a previously vacant dormitory that was renovated as part of a

partnership between ATS and DaimlerChrysler Financial Services.

April, whose last name cannot be released due to state regulations, is one of six

Adrian Training School residents currently in the transitional program. She's been sentenced to the facility twice. The first time was after she ran away from home in

March 2004; the second was after she was caught with marijuana, violating the terms of her probation, in August 2006.

April joined the new transitional program after five months at ATS, and she says it's helped her develop a plan to follow after her sentence is completed. After finishing high school or getting her GED, she plans to go to a two-year community college before transferring to Ferris State University for a pre-law degree. Then she hopes to attend law school at Clark Atlanta University in Georgia.

"I have been more focused," she said. "I know what I want to do now. I know my goals. I know that I have to learn in order to be released and be successful in the community."



Adrian Training School director Sandra Bow, left, and transition program director Jennifer Williams celebrate the completion of the new Cynthia Gray Transition Hall during an open house on Friday.

# ATS

Continued from page A1

The transitional program is called YWATE — pronounced "why wait" — for Young Women Attaining Transitional Experiences. Jennifer Williams, who came to ATS 10 months ago to take on the newly created job of transition coordinator, said the program is tailored to each individual and lasts from five months to a year.

Since last summer, Williams has met with the girls once a week to discuss life and work skills. They also do weekly community service projects.

But now that the transitional program's permanent home is complete, the program will enter a new phase. Beginning March 12, the girls will be able to live in the 12-bed Cynthia Gray Transitional Hall, which is named for a longtime ATS volunteer, working and going to school away from the facility and actually practicing the skills they will need after they're released.

"This is a place to make mistakes and build up on those mistakes to be successful, self-sufficient," Williams said.

ATS director Sandra Bow said the transition program began after she realized the school wasn't giving its residents everything they needed to be successful in the outside world.

"The problem is that when they leave here, they're not as prepared as I'd like them to be," Bow said.

So she pitched the idea of a new program to Leonard Dixon, director of the Michigan Bureau of Juvenile Justice. He gave her the green light.

The program also got a significant boost from DaimlerChrysler Financial Services. The company donated \$10,000 to help renovate the transition hall, and about three dozen employees spent a day in October painting the rooms.

The school's relationship with DaimlerChrysler began a little over a year ago, when Bow took a group of ATS residents to a women's conference in Detroit and met Monique Tate, DaimlerChrysler's manager of diversity marketing and co-chairwoman of community relations for the company's women's forum.

Bow asked Tate about supporting the planned



Employees of DaimlerChrysler Financial Services tour the kitchen of the Adrian Training School's new Cynthia Gray Transitional Hall, which they helped renovate.

Telegram photos by Erik Ga



Lt. Harold Love, commander of the Michigan State Police post in Adrian, talks with Monique Tate of DaimlerChrysler Financial Services at an open house Friday for the Cynthia Gray Transitional Hall at the Adrian Training School.

transitional program, and later, Tate called her to say the answer was yes.

**"It's our ultimate goal that they'll be living a crime-free life and just be successful women in society."**

**Jennifer Williams**  
Adrian Training School  
transition coordinator

The company's involvement with the program goes beyond helping build the new dormitory. DaimlerChrysler invited ATS residents to its national

headquarters in August and sent gift bags at Christmas to every girl on campus.

Tony Lyons, DaimlerChrysler's senior manager of collections, said the relationship will continue with seminars by DaimlerChrysler employees and field trips to the company's Jeep and Dodge Viper assembly plants.

"The momentum doesn't stop here," Tate said.

Williams also hopes graduates of the transition program will contribute to its success. She plans to start a support group in which former residents come back to Adrian Training School and talk with current residents, showing them it's possible to succeed.

"It's our ultimate goal that they'll be living a crime-free life and just be successful women in society," Williams said.



## 500 to get insurance for free or at low cost

Wednesday, February 07, 2007

By Fredricka Paul

fpaul@citpat.com -- 768-4945

Uninsured Jackson County residents can apply for free or low-cost health-care coverage starting today because of several community organizations.

After more than three years of planning, Project Access will provide health care to uninsured, low-income residents who don't qualify for public assistance.

Officials have estimated 16,000 residents qualify for the program. Initially, the program can help about 500.

"You have to start somewhere and go from there," said Dr. Brian Adamczyk, a physician at the Centre for Family Medicine in Jackson. "It is simply the right thing to do for the community. The need is there and it needed to be done."

Kelley Kuhn, the program's coordinator, said economic reasons keep many from receiving the proper medical care.

Jackson County residents 19 and older who do not have medical benefits and whose income is at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty level will qualify, she said.

"We know the need is beyond the first 500 people," Kuhn said. "In order to effectively meet the need, the program is going to have to grow."

"It is the most significant thing to happen to the community in a long, long time," said Ken Toll, executive director of the United Way of Jackson County. "(We) thought it was a pipe dream, and now it is going to happen."

A \$42,000 grant from the Jackson County Community Foundation is paying for the project's coordinator. About 80 doctors have agreed to treat patients.

Adamczyk credits the physicians who are volunteering their time to take patients. He said that while recruiting local doctors, he received almost 100 percent participation from those who were asked.

"Without physician leadership, this part of the project would not have worked," said Nancy Miller, chief executive officer of LifeWays. "(Adamczyk) provided that leadership."

©2007 Jackson Citizen Patriot

© 2007 Michigan Live. All Rights Reserved.

## **Michigan : Eastern Upper Peninsula collaborative receives \$120,000 Great Start Collaborative grant**

*Posted by [Patriot](#) on 2007/2/7 8:46:58 (12 reads)*

Early Childhood Investment Corporation grants focus on early childhood development and care

February 6, 2007 -- SAULT STE. MARIE - The Eastern Upper Peninsula Great Start Collaborative today accepted a \$120,000 grant from the Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC) to strengthen early childhood development and care in the region.

ECIC CEO Judy Samelson presented a ceremonial check to Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District Superintendent Peter Everson and Collaborative Coordinator Gary Davis.

The grant is part of a \$3.15 million award to 21 Great Start Collaboratives across Michigan that coordinate community resources and supports to help children from birth to age five and their families. A total of 70 percent of Michigan's poor and minority children now live in a county where a Great Start Collaborative is being convened.

The Early Childhood Investment Corporation, announced in Governor Jennifer Granholm's 2005 State of the State address, provides grants from a mix of public and private funding sources. Grant funding was made possible in August 2006 when the Michigan Legislature approved a \$1 million appropriation for early childhood collaboratives across the state. This appropriation triggered matching funds from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation.

In total, 21 collaboratives have been funded by the Early Childhood Investment Corporation; 14 in January 2006, and seven in October 2006.

"These grants will help bring together the public and private sectors including government, business, civic, faith, education, and community groups to develop a long-standing, sustained focus on early learning and childhood development," Samelson said.

"We're grateful for the support of our partners who recognize the importance of investing in early childhood programs."

Intermediate school districts will act as fiduciaries for the grants. In addition to the Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District, 21 intermediate school districts and regional education service agencies around the state also were awarded funding for planning and/or implementation of Great Start Collaboratives.

"Children who participate in high-quality early childhood development programs are better prepared to enter elementary school, are more likely to pursue secondary education and have lower dropout rates and higher high school graduation rates," said Marianne Udow, Department of Human Services director. "By improving the skills of a large fraction of the workforce, these programs for poor children will reduce poverty and strengthen the state's ability to compete in the global market."

ECIC is a unique public, nonprofit corporation created to invest in Michigan's youngest citizens. By educating, motivating and involving Michigan citizens in efforts to build and promote a system of supports for young children and their families, all Michigan children can make a Great Start!

For more information about the ECIC, visit <http://www.ecic4kids.org>

Source: Michigan Newswire



## KALAMAZOO GAZETTE

### Poverty fight can unite community

Wednesday, February 07, 2007

**By Patti Sholler-Barber**

I was completing the evaluation form at the end of the poverty simulation staged by the Kalamazoo County Poverty Reduction Initiative. The presenter beckoned us to take the message of poverty awareness to the community.

Fifteen percent of the county's residents lives below the poverty line. Forty percent of cash welfare recipients dropped out of high school, costing taxpayers approximately \$156 million per year.

These are not isolated facts nor disconnected from the lives of the other 85 percent of the county's population. The cost of poverty can be seen in the levels of incarceration, and therefore, the cost of that incarceration. Drop-out rates are connected to poverty, and public assistance funds are ill-equipped to keep up with this growing population's needs.

Community is a wonderful thing. It can foster a movement that brings out a multitude of participants. It can build organizations that create homes for deserving individuals. It can pass ordinances that benefit all community members.

Can it take on the far-reaching goals of reducing poverty? Isn't this is just as important as recycling and not smoking?

The speakers at the poverty simulation acquainted us with the myriad organizations in the community that are currently working very hard to help this population.

Some of us were given specific roles to play in the simulation. We realized that if you work, the time left to get assistance for yourself is limited. We all had difficulty understanding the forms we needed to fill out to receive assistance. Who gets which form? If there is a language or reading barrier, you are at a huge disadvantage.

At the conclusion of the simulation, the main concern of those of us involved were that day care was expensive, health-care costs were absolutely out of control, and personal bonding time with family members became secondary to avoiding eviction or utility shut-offs. The real-life issues faced by the impoverished were made painfully clear through the activity.

This sparked comments of frustration, alienation, stress and defeatism by the participants.

Money and transportation were in short supply by the design of this activity, in order to expose the difficulties of making a \$360-per-week salary stretch to support four people. The most successful participants were those who worked in community assistance programs. They understood the system better, but still wound up in debt at the end of the month, with little food, home repairs not taken care of, and maybe even having made a couple of visits to the pawn shop provided in the simulation, in order to try to make ends meet.

We all agreed that 15 percent of our population cannot be ignored. It cannot be assumed that all is being done that can be, or that saying "just try harder and you'll make it" is an adequate response.

We definitely need to link our efforts on poverty issues and the connection they have to drop-out rates. Why not eradicate the term "drop out" from our vocabulary?

The Kalamazoo Promise can be an attempt to do some great things, "by connecting students with post-secondary options for personal growth, development and economic security" to borrow from Bruce S.

Gordon, the NAACP's president and chief executive officer. We must get these students to post-secondary education opportunities. That will directly address the poverty issue that our community faces.

We also must deal with the fact that we invest more in jails than in schools. Why? Are we not forward-thinking enough to realize that these problems largely have roots in poverty?

Investment in programs to aid citizens in conquering poverty can unite our community. Long-term solutions with good track records are sound education initiatives that empower this population of struggling citizens.

Patti Sholler-Barber resides in Kalamazoo. She is a trustee on the Kalamazoo Public Schools Board of Education.

©2007 Kalamazoo

© 2007 Michigan Live. All Rights Reserved.

## **Senate To Address Department Overruns**

MIRS, February 6, 2007

Senate Majority Leader Mike **BISHOP** (R-Rochester) said he's definitely thinking about creating some kind of punishment for departments that violate the state Constitution by going over budget.

The Departments of Corrections (DOC), State Police (MSP) and Human Services (DHS) over shot their allocation for Fiscal Year (FY) 2006, but lawmakers weren't made aware of the situation until last November, nearly two months after the close of the fiscal year.

The Senate is scheduled Wednesday to discuss a supplemental budget that takes care of the \$69.1 million budget overruns by three state departments, but it's doing so with stepped-up reporting requirements to prevent any more end-of-year surprises.

"As a citizen, that offends me," Bishop said about the over-expenditures.

Bishop said he's had conversations with each department head about the issue.

"I'm not satisfied with what I heard," he said.

One solution would be to require the departments to give the Legislature more frequent reports on their financial situations. Bishop said some of the departments tried to do this, but were silenced because the State Budget Office (SBO) disagreed with their numbers.

"That's completely circumventing the process," Bishop said about the SBO's failure to report the numbers early.

Bishop concluded by stating that no department should thumb its nose at the process and the state needs to live within its means.

"It's a spending problem, not a revenue problem," he said.

Both the House and Senate appropriations committees have taken turns grilling the departments for the reasons behind the reporting gaffe, but Wednesday's action is the first step toward addressing the situation (See "**Panel Still Looking Into Over Expenditures**," 1/31/07).

**SB 0166**, sponsored by Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Ron **JELINEK** (R-Three Oaks), is designed to take care of the FY 2006 appropriations. A bill designed



to address the reporting requirement is currently being drafted by the Legislative Service Bureau and is expected to be introduced Wednesday before committee.



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
LANSING



MARIANNE UDOW  
DIRECTOR



The Michigan  
**Heart Gallery**

## News Release

Contact: Maureen Sorbet (517) 373-7394

---

### **2007 Michigan Heart Gallery on Display in Grandville**

***Public to view professional portraits of Michigan foster children who are waiting for adoption***

---

**February 7, 2007**

GRANDVILLE – “What I want for myself in this life is a family . . . .”

The statement above was made by 16 year-old Danielle, who is waiting to be adopted. Many of us take being part of a family for granted. A family provides the simplest comforts like having someone who cares where you are and asks, “How was your day?”

Today in Michigan there are more than 4,000 children without families. These children wait and hope every day for someone to adopt them and give them families of their own. Most of these children are not newborns or infants, but older children; many live with the trauma of abuse and neglect, have medical issues, or need special help.

Some of the children waiting to be adopted are featured in a heart-warming photographic exhibit called the Michigan Heart Gallery. The 2007 Michigan Heart Gallery will be on display from February 7 through February 28, 2007 at the Rivertown Crossings mall, 3700 RiverTown Parkway in Grandville.

The Michigan Heart Gallery, a collaborative effort between the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange, the Adoptive Family Support Network, and the Michigan Department of Human Services, seeks to bring our community closer to the faces and voices of children waiting for permanent homes. The Michigan Heart Gallery features professional photos of some of Michigan’s waiting children, who come from various regions of the state. Recruitment activities such as the Heart Gallery remind people that there are many children in Michigan who are waiting to be adopted.

The photographs in the Heart Gallery were taken by dozens of professional photographers who donated their time, talent and resources to take portraits that help capture the spirit of children in the foster care system. The Heart Gallery allows these children to be seen in an artistic, poignant and tasteful photographic exhibit. These kids were actively involved in the photo shoot experience some selecting which portrait to feature in the Heart Gallery, and others coming up with their own poses and settings.

"Most of the children featured in the Heart Gallery have been waiting for a long time to find a family of their own," Marianne Udow, director of the Michigan Department of Human Services, said. "While we hope children featured in the exhibit will find families, the larger goal of the Heart Gallery is to promote the idea of caring for and adopting children from the foster care system. We know from experience that if these children are not seen, and if we do not continue to educate the public about older children, who need families, then they may be forgotten. The Heart Gallery is an amazing undertaking and we are thrilled the public will have an opportunity to view these portraits, get to know the children and possibly take action to see if adoption may be right for them."

These waiting children have simple requests. "I would like to live with a nice family that would let me play on the football team," explains one boy. "My best thoughts about getting a family is that I hope they are nice," shares another.

Some of the children in the Michigan Heart Gallery have been waiting to be adopted for several years and are now teenagers. Each year, approximately 450 Michigan children between the ages of 18 and 21, leave the foster care system because of their age. These youths do not have a family to stand up at their wedding, a place to go home for the holidays, or a family safety net of any kind. The Michigan Heart Gallery seeks to encourage prospective parents to adopt an older child, so these children can have a vital connection to a supportive adult during adolescence, as young adults, and beyond.

Another piece of the Heart Gallery is a small sampling of portraits of successful adoptive families. The Heart Gallery features three families that have opened their hearts and homes to children from the foster care system.

"These families show others that it is possible to build a wonderful family through adoption," Udow said. "Despite the rough times they might have faced in the past, they prove how much love and care can do for these children."

The Heart Gallery concept was initially founded by the New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department in 2001 as a way to help foster children in protective custody who are waiting for adoptive families find the families they desire. Since 2001, the Heart Gallery has expanded to other states and cities.

For more information about the Michigan Heart Gallery and how you can get involved, please call (800) 589-6273 or visit the Michigan Heart Gallery Web site at [www.miheart.org](http://www.miheart.org)

###